

City of Brooklyn

E~Newsletter

March 2011

Volume 1, Issue 3



Richard H. Balbier, Mayor



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City of Brooklyn

7619 Memphis Ave

Brooklyn, Ohio 44144

Mayor Balbier addresses Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce Members at their annual State of the City luncheon

According to Mayor Balbier, the City of Brooklyn is in better shape than it was a year ago. The Mayor cited that the city has 15% less full time employees, cutting payroll from \$400,000 to \$347,000 for a savings of 1.3 million a year. He also said that we are now bringing in more money per month than is being spent. Mayor Balbier indicated that there is a stabilization fund (rainy day fund) that can only be used in an emergency with a 2/3 vote by City Council. The Mayor also wanted to highlight the fact that Brooklyn started a composting program. Last year our city composted 435.76 tons of material which saved the city \$19,391.37 in tipping fees. He says it will be more this year. Our recycling rate went from 28.74% to 40.20% in 2010. The Mayor said we are now getting paid for our recyclables, stating that our community collected \$2,157.04 the last two months.

Any resident who experienced flooding in their basements due to the rain on February 27– 28 may contact the Cuyahoga County Emergency Management at 216-443-5700 for POSSIBLE assistance.



Council's Corner by Kathleen Pucci

Council Updates

We are in the process of setting the schedule for a Public Works Committee meeting to review the recommendations from our City Engineer relative to the 2011 Streets Repair Program.

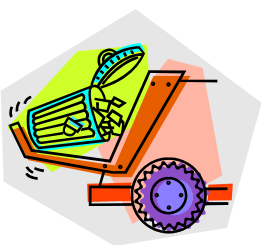
We will also be scheduling Work Sessions for our 2011 Permanent Budget. At the end of each year Council adopts a Temporary Budget for the upcoming new year. Once we have all the final year-end figures for revenue and expenses, the Mayor is responsible for submitting the annual estimate of receipts and expenditures and a Permanent Appropriations Ordinance which must be adopted by March 31st of each year. While we have always reviewed the budget in detail, last year Council met with each department head to review not only the level of appropriation requested, but to also have an in-depth discussion on the operations in each individual department. This proved to be very informative and we expect to do this again this year.

These meetings are open to the public, please watch our public notices and the City website for dates and times.

Our legislation for each Council Meeting is now available on the City website (www.brooklynohio.gov) and also available for review at the reception desk at City Hall the Friday prior to the council meeting.

Charter Review Commission

Our City Charter requires that every six years we appoint a Charter Review Commission to review the Charter and recommend to Council any alterations, revisions, and amendments to the Charter. Council is then required to submit the Commission's recommendations to the voters. The Charter Review Commission consists of nine electors of the City of Brooklyn who cannot hold any other office or appointment in the City. Two members are appointed by the Mayor and one member is appointed by each member of Council. The Mayor's appointees are Greg Frey and Ronald Tumino. Council appointed the following members: Sue Grodek, Marcia Balina, Barb Paulitzky, Earl Bloam, Mary Lee Bowen, Tom Adamski, and Paula Ritter. The Commission met on February 3rd and elected Greg Frey as Chairperson and Mary Lee Bowen as Vice Chairperson. They have set their meeting dates as the second and fourth Thursdays in March and April at 6:00 pm in the Conference Room at City Hall, these meetings are open to the public. If you have any suggestions on Charter Amendments you can either contact a Commission member or send your suggestion via our City website.



Garbage and Recycling Collection

Rubbish and recycling materials are collected once a week. Call the Service Garage at 216-635-4232 to find out your collection day.

During weeks when a holiday is observed, your scheduled day may change. Collections scheduled on or after the following holidays will normally be one day late: New Year's Day, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, President's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day, Veteran's Day, Thanksgiving Day, the day after Thanksgiving and Christmas. Call the Service Garage Hotline at 216-635-4233 or go to www.brooklynohio.gov for the holiday schedule. *All containers **must not** exceed 50 pounds filled weight!*

For pick-up of tree branches, paint cans, carpeting, mattresses, furniture, appliances or other large items, call the Service Garage to arrange for a special pick-up.

Items not accepted on Curb for Pick-Up

The following items must be brought to the Service Garage at 9400 Memphis Avenue: gasoline, motor oil, tires, car batteries, concrete and bricks. Proof of residency must be provided before the items will be accepted. Car parts are not accepted at the Service Garage. You must consult the nearest junkyard for disposal.



Reminder—garbage may not be placed out on the curb on holidays or weekends. You may not put your rubbish on the tree lawn before 6:00pm the night before your collection day.

If your house is missed please call the Service Garage at 216-635-4232 within 24 hours of your regular pick-up day.

Recreation Department News...



Learn to Swim

Our Learn to Swim instruction program offers aquatic classes for everyone, tots through senior citizens. All classes are Red Cross affiliated, and certificates will be issued to participants upon successful completion of requirements. The following are available:

Parents/Tots, Adults, Starfish Level 1, Level 2-5, Level 6, Lifeguarding, Competitive Swimming (minimum 6 registrants in order to hold class) Fee for the 18-class evening program session is Residents: \$40.00 Non Residents \$55.00. Those registering late will be assessed a fee of \$15.00.

Brooklyn Barracuda Competitive Swim Team

This class offers a step-by-step approach to the sport of competitive swimming. Areas such as terminology, record keeping, time trials and swimming endurance will be covered. Pre-requisite Level 3. Fees: Residents \$55.00 Non-Residents \$80.00. Those registering late will be assessed a late fee of \$15.00. Hours: Mondays 7:45pm-8:45pm. Wednesdays 7:45pm-8:45pm.

Spectators will not be permitted on the pool deck. No Exceptions! Everyone's cooperation is requested. Registration Dates Spring Session: Residents—March 5 & 6 11:00am-1:00pm. Non-Residents March 6th 11:00am-1:00pm. March 7th -6:00-8:00pm. Classes begin March 14th, 2011.

Red Cross Lifeguard Class

Saturday, March 19th and Saturday, March 30th. Class Dates and Times: Saturday, March 19th –8-1pm intro and pre-requisite testing.

Saturday, March 26th-8-1pm.; Saturday, April 2nd-8-1pm.; Saturday, April 9th-8-1pm.; Saturday, April 16th-8-1pm.; Saturday, April 30th-8am-undetermined-(review and final exam.) **Pre-requisites:** Must be able to swim 300 meters (12 lengths) of the pool demonstrating front crawl and breaststroke. Must be able to retrieve 10 lb brick from bottom of the deep end (13ft deep). Must be 15 years old by April 30th to enroll (please bring birth certificate or State ID on first day of class.) Bring these items to every class: swimsuit (girls-appropriate athletic one piece, guys-long swim trunks), goggles, towel, notebook and pencil. Residents \$165. Non-Residents \$175. Please register at the Recreation Center by March 14, 2011.

Youth Baseball Registration

Resident students may register for the Summer Youth Baseball program at the Recreation Center on the following dates: Saturday, March 12th-10:00am-Noon. Saturday, March 19th-10:00am-Noon. Wednesday, March 23rd-6:00pm-8:00pm. A current resident identification card and birth certificate are required at the time of registration. \$35.00 Residents. \$45.00 Non-Residents who do not reside in Brooklyn but attend a school in the City of Brooklyn. \$55.00 Non-Residents. A late registration fee of \$15.00 will be charged for any registration that occurs after March 23rd, 2011. These players will be placed on a waiting list for team placement and may not be guaranteed a team spot.

Congratulations Greater Cleveland High School Hockey League Baron Cup Champions

Red Division—University School; White Division—Amherst Steele; Blue Division—Mayfield

Senior Community Center News...



"Are You O.K. Program"

This program is a **free** service provided for our senior residents. It is called **"ARE YOU O.K.?" Telephone Re-assurance System**. If you are interested, fill out an application provided at the Brooklyn Senior Center. It includes name, address, phone number and a brief personal history. You are also asked to provide the name and phone number of a relative or friend who lives nearby, preferably one who has a key to your residence. All of the information you provide will be kept in confidence at the Police Department. Each day the Police Department will call at a designated time to make sure you are o.k. If you are interested in applying for this program and would like more information, please call the Brooklyn Senior Center at 216-635-4222.

Brooklyn Community/Senior Center

Indoor Garage Sale/Flea Market

When: Saturday, March 5, 2011

7727 Memphis Avenue



Evening Beginners Basic Zumba Class*

This basic beginners class is geared toward beginners. Zumba is a fusion of Latin and International music creating a dynamic, exciting, effective fitness system. Our instructor has designed routines that are easy on your joints and designed for the beginner. This Zumba* class is fun! No dancing experience needed! Classes will be on Thursday evenings starting on March 3 from 5:00-6:00pm at the Brooklyn Senior Center. Call 216-635-4222 for more information.*

**Zumba is a registered trademark*

Coffee with Mayor Richard Balbier

Date: March 8, 2011

Time: 9:00am

Please join us for Coffee with Mayor Balbier and his staff to address questions and/or concerns that you may have regarding the city.

Please call to 216-635-4222 to make reservations.



Safety Department News...



Firefighter Kevin Paul is sworn in by Mayor Balbier, as the newest Lieutenant of the Brooklyn Fire Department.

Congratulations Lieutenant Paul! Good Luck!

****DONATIONS NEEDED****

The Brooklyn Firefighters are asking for donations to restore the
Brooklyn Fire Department's 1941 Fire truck.

Donations/Checks can be made out to: The Association of Brooklyn Firefighters

Or mail your donation to the Brooklyn Fire Department, 8400 Memphis Ave. Brooklyn, 44144 Attention Chief Zemek or Firefighter Canzona.

This is the second truck that Brooklyn purchased since the department was founded in 1937. For more information please contact either Carmen Canzona or Chief Zemek at 216-749-1212 jzemek@brooklynohio.gov



Daylight Savings

Don't forget to move your clocks ahead 1 hour March 13th! Also, change the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. If your smoke detector does not work, you do not have one, or yours is over 10 years old, and you are a homeowner stop by the fire station to receive one free.

The Fire Dept. will be conducting free blood pressure checks at the Community-Senior Center on the second and fourth Thursdays of every month from 10:00-11:30am. The Police Dept will check your home twice a day while you are on vacation. Contact the dept at 216-749-1234 for more info.

Service and Building Department News...

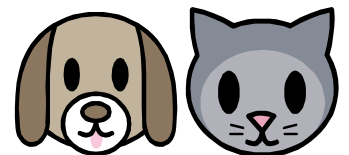
Congratulations to John Verba who was chosen as the new Service Director. Mr. Verba has worked for the City of Brooklyn for over 25 years. Mr. Verba was active in starting the Composting Program last spring and oversees the daily recycling operations. He has also obtained government grants to help fund the Recycle Department in addition to the many daily office responsibilities that he has. Mr. Verba will be a great asset to the residents and employees of our community! Mr. Verba can be reached at 216-635-4219 or at jverba@brooklynohio.gov. Good Luck John!



Reminder! The City of Brooklyn, in cooperation with the Cuyahoga County Sanitary Engineers Office, has a program to assist Brooklyn residents who have water backing up in their basements, gurgling toilets, or slow drains. If this occurs, please contact the City of Brooklyn Service Department at 216-351-2133. If this occurs after normal business hours, you may contact police dispatch at their non-emergency number, 216-749-1234 for assistance. There is no fee for this service to the City of Brooklyn residents and businesses.

Brooklyn Animal Shelter Fundraiser!

The Brooklyn Animal Shelter is having a fundraiser from now until April 23 at the Five Below store located at Ridge Park Square. Just pick up a flyer from the shelter or download it from the website www.brooklynshelter.org, bring it with you when you shop and the shelter will receive 10% of the dollars you spend.



Calendar of Events—March 2011

- Mar.1 Blood Pressure checks at the fire station M-F from 8-4:30pm. Zumba 7pm Senior Center
- Mar.2 No Parking on City Streets thru Apr 1 2am-7am. AARP Income Tax 9-Noon Senior Center
- Mar.3 Planning Comm. Mtg. Mayor's Court 6pm. Zumba 7pm Senior Center
- Mar.4 Fire Dept will conduct home safety inspections call 216-749-1212 to make an appt.
- Mar.5 Learn to Swim Registration Res.11-1pm. Indoor Garage Sale 9-2pm Senior Center
- Mar.6 Learn to Swim Registration—Res and Non Res 11-1pm
- Mar.7 Brooklyn Animal Shelter Mtg. 6:30pm Fire Station. Learn to Swim Registration 6-8pm. Weight Watchers 6pm Senior Center. AARP Income Tax 9-Noon Senior Center
- Mar.8 VFW 7727 Mtg. 7pm Fire Station. Zumba 7pm Senior Center
- Mar.9 AARP Income Tax 9-Noon Senior Center
- Mar.10 Blood Pressure Checks Senior Center 10-11:30am. Chamber of Commerce Luncheon Mtg. Noon at Polaris. Zumba 7pm Senior Center
- Mar.12 Entry deadline Adult Softball. Youth Baseball Registration 10-Noon. Turn your clocks ahead one hour tonight!
- Mar.13 Daylight Savings Time Begins. Change your CO and Smoke Detector batteries
- Mar.14 Finance Mtg. 6:30pm. Council Mtg. 7pm. Weight Watchers 6pm Senior Center. AARP Income Tax 9-Noon Senior Center.
- Mar.15 Zumba 7pm Senior Center
- Mar.16 AARP Income Tax 9-Noon Senior Center
- Mar.17 St. Patrick's Day Luncheon and Dance 11:30am Senior Center
- Mar.18 Democratic Club Mtg. 7pm Senior Center
- Mar.19 Youth Baseball Registration 10-Noon
- Mar.21 Weight Watchers 6pm Senior Center
- Mar.22 Zumba 7pm Senior Center
- Mar.23 Youth Baseball Registration 6-8pm. AARP Income tax 9-Noon Senior Center
- Mar.24 Zoning Board of Appeals Mtg. 7pm Mayor's Court. Red Cross Blood Drive 2-7pm Rec Center
- Mar.28 Finance Mtg. 6:30pm. Council Mtg. 7pm. Weight Watchers 6pm Senior Center. AARP Income Tax 9-Noon Senior Center
- Mar.29 Historical Society Members Luncheon Noon. Zumba 7pm.
- Mar.30 AARP Income Tax 9-Noon Senior Center. Mar.31 Zumba 7pm Senior Center